

Abstract of the DisclosureALTERNATE REGISTER MAPPING

- 5 A novel method of providing alternate access to a storage element for holding a data element in a network interface. The storage element is accessed via a first access path when the network interface operates with a first type of software, and via a second access path when a second type of software is used. The first access path is allocated in response to a first address signal identifying a first register required by the first type of software to hold the data element. The second access path is allocated in response to a second address signal identifying a second register required by the second type of software to hold the data element.